

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4 and 6 through 11 are pending in this application. All of these claims were allowed as indicated in the Notice Of Allowability and Notice Of Allowance on June 3, 1988.

This Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified file wrapper continuing application is for the purpose of updating the cross-reference to the related applications in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a). Thus, this application should be accorded the benefit of the filing date of Applicants' prior applications, Serial Nos. 607,518 (the "Parent Application") and 438,408 (the "Grandparent Application").

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Upon reviewing the file of the Parent Application prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, the undersigned attorney noticed that there is no clear indication, by way of the usual FORM PTO-892 or otherwise of what prior art the Examiner considered in examining this application. This file wrapper continuing application was filed to clarify in the record the prior art considered and to call to the Examiner's attention to prior art which the Examiner may not have considered. Accordingly, submitted herewith are copies of all of the references cited on

the attached FORM PTO-1449, along with a statement of their relevance in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56.

U.S. Patent No. 1,014,219 discloses a mechanical card shuffler including means for delivering cards successively from a deck, a plurality of chutes for temporarily retaining a plurality of the cards received from the feeding means, and means for opening and closing discharge ends of the chutes to allow the cards to be mixed together.

U.S. Patent No. 1,867,690 discloses a mechanical playing card mixing device having a plurality of superposed compartments, a mechanical linkage for introducing the cards singly and successively into the compartments where a plurality of cards are accumulated, and means for withdrawing the cards from the compartments to form a pile of mixed cards.

U.S. Patent No. 2,016,030 discloses a card shuffling and dealing device wherein a deck of cards is placed in a box-shaped receptacle. A hand crank is then turned and the cards are fed from the deck, one at a time, into several separate compartments or trays. Each compartment pertains to a hand of one of the players. A shunting mechanism determines into which compartment any given card will fall, and the movement of this mechanism is determined by the shapes of cams which have been designed in accordance with a predetermined mathematical formula which allows for random distribution of the cards.

U.S. Patent No. 2,185,474 discloses a mechanical card shuffling and dealing device wherein a deck of cards is positioned therein in a prearranged sequential manner to allow for dealing the cards in a random manner. A deck of cards is positioned within a hopper. An endless belt feeds the card therefrom, by frictional contact, into a housing. The housing includes a plurality of shelves for receiving the cards in a prearranged sequence.

U.S. Patent No. 2,659,607 discloses a mechanical card shuffling device which mixes together cards from two separate decks. Cards are removed from the decks alternately through slots in holding compartments by rollers driven by belts and a combination separating and roller driving means which is actuated by rotating a crank.

U.S. Patents Nos. 2,755,090 and 2,815,214 disclose mechanical card shuffling devices specifically designed for the reception of two decks of cards to be shuffled together. An upper and lower roller each receives a deck of cards. The rollers are manually rotated so as to alternately deposit the cards in a stack.

U.S. Patent No. 3,147,978 discloses a card dealing device wherein a deck of cards is supported in a box shaped magazine. A card projecting drum rotates with respect to the deck of cards and includes a projecting segment of frictional

rubber secured to the circumference thereof. The projecting segment is in gripping engagement with the uppermost card for projecting the card through a guide member as the crank rotates the drum 19. The guide member then deflects the projected card into one of a plurality of fixed guide paths.

U.S. Patent No. 3,222,071 discloses a card dealing apparatus which indicates the order in which cards are to be dealt from a deck and thereby eliminates the need for shuffling the cards prior to dealing. A set of marked cards is used in combination with a sensor for identifying the card to be dealt. The dealer can select which player is to receive any particular card.

U.S. Patent No. 3,232,622 discloses a spinner-type card game apparatus which includes a turnable card-hand dealing wheel which has radial circumferentially spaced ribs or the like defining individual card-hand receivers. By spinning the wheels, ready-to-play card hands are dealt by chance to the players.

U.S. Patent No. 3,575,408 discloses a rotary collator having a circular platform carrying a pack of sheets standing on edge extending generally radially of the platform and leaning against a sloping backing. The backing is rotated about an upright axis so that the plane of the pack face moves successively into registry with inlet slots of narrow tilted bins arranged around the rotating platform.

U.S. Patent No. 3,588,116 discloses a card shuffler for separating a deck of cards into two equal groups and alternately mixing one card at a time from each group. A deck of cards is divided in two, and placed in upper and lower chutes. The chutes include discharge rollers, which are rotated for simultaneously feeding the cards from the chutes into a stack of shuffled cards.

U.S. Patent No. 3,589,730 discloses a mechanical card-deck shuffling assembly for intermittently sequentially gripping cards which are upwardly displaced, elevating the gripped cards to a point spaced above the remainder of the deck, releasing the elevated cards and immediately thereafter laterally displacing the released cards in one direction as they fall downwardly toward a support and laterally displacing the cards disposed on the support in the opposite direction.

U.S. Patent No. 3,897,954 discloses an automatic card distributor for distributing playing cards into two or more stacks in a pseudo-random fashion so as to simulate the results achieved by conventional shuffling and dealing of the cards. A deck of cards is mechanically and successively dealt into a card channel along which are arranged a plurality of card hoppers to receive the cards. A logic circuit pseudo-randomly controls the selection of one of the card hoppers for each successive card.

U.S. Patent No. 3,929,339 discloses a card dealing device comprising a cavity adapted to accommodate two packs of

playing-cards arranged parallel to each other and in a side-by-side relationship. A weighted member is adapted to press the cards into contact with two rollers, each of which engages a separate deck of cards. The rollers are arranged such that when they are rotated, the cards may or may not mix with each other as they are being dealt and therefore, the use of a prearranged deck of cards would be rendered obsolete.

U.S. Patent No. 4,033,590 discloses an apparatus for distributing playing cards automatically having a rotatable table which includes a reciprocating card ejection mechanism which operates during and in response to rotation of the table and which ejects cards to a plurality of locations about the device. One or more cards can be distributed at each location, as desired.

U.S. Patent No. 4,072,304 discloses a collator system in which a plurality of sheets are stored in a plurality of pockets which operates in a run/reject and a cycle/stop mode. The run/reject mode allows the collator to run, despite a sheet feeding malfunction. The stacks with errors are offset from the correct stacks. The cycle/stop mode rotates the feed drum to an operator access area, so that the malfunction can be corrected.

U.S. Patent No. 4,099,810 discloses an apparatus for storing documents which includes a cylindrical housing and, in

the housing, an upright carousel having a number of radially disposed pockets.

U.S. Patent No. 4,145,038 discloses a rotary drum collator-sorter for handling sheets having the dual capacity of either collating or sorting sheet material into individual booklets or collations. The machine has a plurality of sheet receiving bins arranged within a rotary drum operatively associated with in-feed and out-feed locations of the machine. A conveyor deposits sheets into the bins and a rotary extracting means is located adjacent the bins for extracting sheets from the bins. Electromechanical controls are provided to cause the rotary drum to be selectively operable and, in turn, determine the sequence.

U.S. Patent No. 4,310,160 discloses a card shuffling device for shuffling a large number of cards, particularly playing cards in which the games played require the use of several decks that must be shuffled a number of times while the game is being played. The device comprises a housing having oppositely positioned feeding shelves from which the cards are fed individually and alternately into a chute which is provided at its terminating end with a floating card rack.

U.S. Patent No. 4,513,969 discloses an automatic card shuffler comprising a housing with at least two wells to receive

two reserve stacks of playing cards to be intermixed and presented to a dealer one at a time.

U.S. Patent No. 4,586,712 discloses an automatic shuffling apparatus for the continuous shuffling of discarded playing cards which greatly reduces the dead time caused by the casino dealer having to manually shuffle four to six decks of playing cards. A carousel is used for storing the shuffled playing cards in radially arranged spaces during game play. A computer generates random card selection from the spaces of the carousel for replenishing the dealing shoe on a one-for-one basis and generates random selection of empty spaces in the storage device for generating the shuffling sequence and inserting discarded playing cards therein.

U.S. Patent No. 4,659,082 discloses a card dispenser including a rotary carousel containing a plurality of card carrying compartments around the periphery thereof. The cards are randomly injected into the carousel from the input hopper and randomly ejected from the carousel into an output hopper for use by the dealer. This patent issued to a patentee which was deemed to be the senior inventor in an interference proceeding involving the grandparent application.

An early examination of this application, as well as consideration of the enclosed references and an acknowledgment of such consideration are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JEROME B. PLEVYAK ET AL.

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(Date)

By:

Alan Nadel
ALAN S. NADEL

Registration No. 27,363

PANITCH SCHWARZE JACOBS & NADEL
36th Floor - Five Penn Center Plaza
1601 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 567-2020